Ddual Citizenship

824. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) :
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have under consideration a proposal to grant dual citizenship to people of Indian origin settled abroad as per the assurance given by the Prime Minister sometime back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any problems or difficulties have been identified in the implementation of the proposal; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be finalised and formally announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) to (d) A High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora set up by the Government in September 2000, in its report submitted in January 2002 recommended, *inter alia,* the grant of dual citizenship to persons of Indian origin settled in certain countries. This recommendation is under examination. It is not possible to indicate a time frame for the completion of this examination at this stage.

Fencing Along Indo-Bangla Border

825. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the second phase of fencing along the Indo-Bangla border in South Bengal has hit a road block due to shifting of villages;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether any negotiations with Bangladesh Rifles have been made in the past few months to clear the hurdles on fencing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when entire fencing on Indo-Bangla border is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (e) No Sir, However, since the border fence on the Indo-Bangladesh border is being constructed at a minimum distance of about 150 yards from the zero line in terms of the Joint India-Bangladesh Guidelines for

Border Authorities, 1975, finalization of alignment of the proposed fence poses difficulties in areas where villages are located at or near the zero line. In the last Director General level Talks between Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles, the question of erecting fencing within 150 yards of the zero line in accordance with the objectives of the Joint India-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities, 1975 when ground limitations do not permit such fence beyond 150 yards of the zero line, was discussed.

The entire project of fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border is targeted to be completed by 2007.

Undertrials in Jails

826. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many undertrials are in various jails of the country on date alongwith State-wise figures for the last three years;

(b) the number of women and aged among them on date;

(c) whether it is true that the jail span of the undertrials have been unnecessarily extended.

(d) if so, how Government plan to solve this problem; and

(e) what steps have been taken by various State Governments and the Central Government for avoiding the delay in completing their judicial procedures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) and (b) The number of undertrial prisoners in various jails in the country during 1998, 1999 and 2000 was 2,02,564, 2,04,480 and 1,93,627 respectively and the number of women undertrial prisoners was 6649, 6347 and 6185. The aged undertrial women prisoners above fifty years among them were 433, 522 and 659 respectively. State-wise figures are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1994 contains, *inter-alia,* a proposal to insert a new section namely; section 438 A in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to provide that where an undertrial prisoner other than the one accused of an offence for which death has been prescribed as one of the punishments, has been under detention for a period extending to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment provided for the alleged offence, he should be released on his personal bond, with or without sureties. It is also proposed to provide that in no case will an undertrial prisoner be detained beyond the maximum period of imprisonment for which he can be sentenced for the alleged offence.